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HUMULUS LUPULUS. THE HOP.

FROM SIGMOND'S LECTURES ON THE MATERIA MEDICA.

THE hop is indigenous to England, although its use in domestic beverage did not come into fashion until the reign of Henry VIII., when its utility was first taught by the Flemish beer makers. At first, it does not seem to have met with very general approbation, for we learn from Blith, that the good people of the city of London petitioned against two articles, which are now considered indispensable to our comfort, Newcastle coal, and hops; the latter nuisance was complained of "in regard they would spoyle the taste of drink and endanger the people." We find soon, however, that they came into general vogue; and Parkinson observes, "The ale which our forefathers were accustomed only to drink, being of a thicker kind of drinke than beere, is now almost quite left off to be made; the use of hops to be put therein altering the quality thereof to be much more healthfull, or rather physickall to preserve the body from expletion of grosse humours which the ale engendered."

This plant grows spontaneously, in hedges and bushy places, in moist rich soil, in almost all parts of Europe, and likewise in North America. Fuchsius tells us, that it is the same as the bruo of the Greeks, and the lupus salictarius of the Romans, a plant which, according to Pliny, grew amongst the willows, and twining around them, choked them, and was as destructive as the wolf, from which it took its name; the generic appellation of "humulus," is thought to have been given to it in consequence of its preference for a humid soil. It is said that our English name is derived from the Anglo Saxon verb, *hoppan*, to climb, but that verb, both in Danish and Teutonic, seems only to have been used to signify that which it does in modern English, *to jump on one leg*. Professor Burnett, whose love for philology was one of his particular characteristics, thinks it comes from a verb, meaning *to climb*, and that it was intended to describe the peculiar habits of the plant.

The hop has a perennial root; it rises by several weak, twining, angular, rough stems; it does not climb by tendrils, but ascends a prop, trees, or shrubs, on poles, or in hedges; it is often made to reach the height of twenty feet or more, always with the sun, that is, from right to left, or from east to west by the south; this direction is followed by some other plants, such as the honey-suckle, and the black-briony,

whilst most of the leguminous plants, such as the kidney-bean, turn the contrary way. The leaves are opposite, heart-shaped, serrated, entire, three or five lobed, of a deep-green color, and sustained on long foot-stalks, which, as well as the leaves, are rough, with minute prickles. The stipules are two or four, heart-shaped, bifid at each joint. The flowers, which are on distinct plants, are axillary or terminal, and furnished with bractææ. The males are on branched peduncles of a greenish-yellow color; the calyx is formed of five oblong, concave, minutely serrated sepals; there is no corolla; the filaments are five, they are short, and have oblong anthers. The females are in axillary, stalked, ovate, drooping catkins, composed of membranous scales of a pale-green color, and containing the germen, which is small, having two very short reflex styles, and awl-shaped downy stigmas.

All the peculiar fragrance and bitterness of the hop are concentrated in a principle which is spontaneously formed upon the scales of the strobiles of the female plants. It is to Dr. Ives, of New York, that we are indebted for the knowledge we have gained upon this matter; for he first pointed out, and by a variety of experiments demonstrated, that the hop, on being shaken and sifted, yields a powder which has a very subtle aroma, which is soon imparted to water and alcohol, and which is very speedily dissipated by a high temperature. To this substance, the name of "lupuline" has been given, and lately it has been called "lupulia." In the market it is commonly known under the technical term, *condition*. Lupulia contains tannin, gallic acid, and a bitter principle; these are soluble in alcohol and in water; it has an extractive matter, which is soluble only in water; it contains resin, soluble in alcohol and ether, and wax, which is only soluble in alkalies and boiling ether. The aromatic and bitter properties of the lupulia are more readily and completely imbibed by alcohol than by water, and much sooner by both hot, than when cold; about five eighths of the whole are soluble in water, alcohol, and ether, there being about three eighths of a vegetable fibrous matter. Having ascertained that for brewing, the only part of the hop which was absolutely and indispensably necessary, was this lupulia, Dr. Ives proceeded to discover what quantity was yielded by a given weight of hops. Six pounds of hops, from the centre of a pocket, were put into a light bag, and, by thrashing, rubbing, and sifting, fourteen ounces of lupulia were obtained. The idea that was then entertained, was, that dry hops would produce a sixth part of their weight of this substance; and this was confirmed; for two barrels of beer were made, in which nine ounces of lupulia were substituted for five pounds of hops. Although the quantity of lupuline was less than commonly enters into the same quantity of wort; and although the weather, for this was done in the month of June, was, in consequence of the great heat, unfavorable to the beer, it was, at the end of five weeks, remarkably fine. This may prove a discovery of essential advantage to the brewer—it may render the whole hop unnecessary; and, as Dr. Ives observes, "if any mechanical means can be devised by which the lupulia may be easily and readily separated from the strobiles, it will consummate an improvement of incalculable value in the preservation of hops and the art of brewing."

MM. Payer and Chevalier obtained a volatile oil from the lupulia, which is very similar in its odor to the hop, but is much more penetrating, feels harsh to the mucous membrane of the nose, and that of the throat, and is likewise narcotic. Dr. Ives had not observed this oil; from its great solubility in water, and its volatility, it at first escaped his attention.

Mr. Planche has given a formula by which lupulia may be obtained in a purified state; he directs "to separate the sand from the lupulia, put it into water, shake it for a few minutes, decant that which is held in solution by the water, and a dark-colored sand is deposited. Repeat the process several times, and spread the lupulia, which is insoluble in water, on bibulous paper; let it drain, and then dry it in the air, neither exposed to the sun nor to a temperature above 76 degrees. It should be prepared yearly, and this cleansing process must be quickly conducted, or it will undergo a change."

The uses to which in domestic economy the hops are placed, are principally to communicate their peculiar aromatic, agreeable flavor, and to cover the sweetness of undecomposed saccharine matter, and to separate a portion of a peculiar vegetable mucilage, in consequence of the gallic acid and the tannin they contain. This mucilage diffused through the beer, would very speedily assist in the decomposition that would occur, and the consequent conversion of the fluid into vinegar. The separation, in small flakes, like those of curdled soap, is produced by the hops, and if the beer or ale be very thick, full-bodied, and apparently abounding with this mucilage, the probability is, that if it be kept but a very short time it will run into fomentation, and be unfit for drinking. It is in the solution of malt and water known by the name of "wort," that the hops are boiled, until the liquor "parts," as it is called; that is, until this mucilaginous portion, which rendered it turbid, separates; and they are afterwards removed by pouring the fluid through a coarse strainer, before the cooling and subsequent fomentation take place.

Great medicinal virtues have at some periods been ascribed to the hop plant, and some of the older herbalists speak of its powers in very enthusiastic language; but more modern inquirers have shown that the limits of its utility are very circumscribed. It was at one period described as one of the most valuable medicines for the solution of stone in the bladder. It was said by Lobb to be capable of softening the hardest calculus. "*Decocto emollitus est calculus urinarius durissimus, unde concluditur lithonthropici vim in corpore humano exercere posse,*" are the words of Murray, of Gottingen; and our great botanist, Ray, seems to have believed that since the hop had been introduced to make beer, fewer individuals had labored under nephritic complaints in London than previously. However, this opinion soon lost ground, and the very reverse doctrine was promulgated, that the hop was productive of calculous complaints; but we find Dr. Quincy, in the "*London Dispensatory,*" thus delivering the general views of medical men: "That part of the plant which is such a mighty commodity in England, and used in our malt liquors, is reckoned very discutient, aperitive, and

good, in all obstructions of the viscera, and particularly of the liver and kidneys, and therefore that notion of such liquors from them reviving a disposition to breed the stone in the bladder, can have no foundation. They are likewise an agreeable bitter, and, upon that account, good to strengthen the stomach, and render those liquors in which they are brewed much more grateful to it."

I believe that to a stomach in the right exercise of its functions, the different varieties of malt liquor will be beneficial, and that there is no probability of any morbid secretion taking place; but it may be very fairly asserted, that there are very few people who have the organs of assimilation in a proper state, and that the great tendency, after a certain period of life, is to the formation of acid. In the process of digestion, if the laboratory of nature do not possess the proper powers, the food undergoes the same decomposition that it would do if exposed to the action of the atmospheric air, and the consequence is production of acidity. As the acids thus formed would endanger the great organs of life, the kidneys remove them, and they are thrown out by the urinary fluid, or they become deposited in the kidneys or bladder. In some cases beer is very quickly conveyed into the circulation, and from thence passes to the kidneys, so that its diuretic powers prevent the acids from becoming deposited, and from remaining in the system; and hence, when it proves diuretic, it may be considered serviceable in calculous affections, and may be recommended to be employed with the food. but, on the other hand, the beer when taken may not only impede the half-performed digestion, but promote acidity, and its extended train of evils. Again, so far from being a diuretic, it may rather deaden every part of the nervous system, and prevent the tissues and organs from being sensible to their usual stimulus. It then retards the circulation; the kidneys take up the acid, and seem to want the power of transmitting it through their own tissues, and hence formation of various kinds are produced. As I shall hereafter have occasion to dwell upon this subject, when speaking of diuretics, I shall only observe, that when there is acidity, heartburn, flatulence, and a previous tendency to calculous disorders, beer will be very injurious, and the red gravel will be produced, and that more especially will be the result of taking ale. There is a fashion now predominant of taking soda with ale or porter, and certainly in many instances in small quantities it assists in promoting digestion, and in neutralizing the superabundant acid.

Coles, the herbalist, in 1657, and Dr. Brookes, in our Dispensatory, have both of them spoken of hops as medicinal, but the subject was very much brought before the profession in the year 1801, previous to which there were a few scattered observations, but Mr. Freake recommended it as a valuable bitter, and published the result of his experience, and this was confirmed by several of the medical men of the day, whilst others again tried it in various diseases. Thus Dr. Latham was induced to give it in phthisis, and considered it in the last stages to be a very valuable substitute for laudanum; he found it, too, very serviceable in checking obstinate vomiting. Dr. Mayo had occasion to speak very highly of its efficacy in the convulsive diseases to which young

children are liable, and more particularly under the influence of teething. Dr. Stone was convinced that it possessed considerable power in the removal of the greater number of symptoms which attend disordered states of the stomach. Dr. Maton formed a high opinion of its value as a sedative. Dr. Cullen said, that he had learnt from the highest authority that it was employed in Spain as a sudorific, when the remains of the syphilitic taint lingered in the system. It was also recommended for worms, and the practice of Darelius, who spoke of it as an anthelmintic, was revived.

All these authorities have led to the employment of the hop in the shape of tincture, or of extract, and, though it may not be an active medicine, it is highly useful, and very much aids other medicines by its soothing power on the stomach, and its grateful bitterness, which renders it a very serviceable tonic where other drugs could not safely be administered. The extract of the Pharmacopœia is to be made of two pounds and a half of the hop, and boiling distilled water two gallons; macerate for twenty-four hours, then boil down to a gallon, and strain the liquor while hot; finally, evaporate to a suitable consistence; of this, five grains to a scruple may be employed. For the tincture now called "tinctura lupuli," and before, "tinctura humuli," take of hops six ounces, proof spirit two pints, macerate for fourteen days, and strain; of this, from thirty minims to two drachms may very fearlessly be prescribed. Dr. Ives attributes the stimulating effect rather to the proof spirit than to the hops, and therefore thinks the tonic or narcotic influence cannot be of much remedial benefit. He has been led to prescribe lupulia, and he finds it frequently induce sleep, and quiet nervous irritation, without causing costiveness, or impairing, like opium, the tone of the stomach. A tincture is made by digesting two ounces of the lupulia in a pint of alcohol, of which, from one to two drachms is the dose. Dr. Ives states, that inquietude and watchfulness, connected with excessive irritability, in all gradations, from the restlessness consequent upon exhaustion and fatigue, to the most uncontrollable paroxysms of delirium tremens, are more frequently allayed by this remedy than by any other. There is a formula, which is called Magendie's powder of lupulia, which consists merely in rubbing one part of lupulia with two parts of white sugar, until they are intimately blended, which forms a mass by being beaten, from which pills can be made, and this is the best preparation that can be employed.

An infusion of the root of the hop has been used instead of sarsaparilla, and likewise for nephritis. There is an infusion ordered by our Pharmacopœia, but not of the root, to be made from six drachms, macerated in a pint of boiling distilled water, for four hours, in a vessel lightly covered, and then to be strained. Externally, an ointment has been used in cancerous sores to relieve pain, and a cataplasm of an infusion of the dried strobiles has been applied with some good result to ill-conditioned and sloughing ulcers. The pommade de lupuline is made of three parts of lard and one part of bruised lupulia; dissolve in a warm bath, and strain it through a lawn sieve; this has been spoken of as a very valuable application for soothing pain. A pillow stuffed

with the strobiles of the hop, and gently warmed, until the aroma is fully developed, has been from an early period a great favorite as a domestic remedy against sleeplessness, but it does not produce much effect unless a little camphor be added to it, when the odor seems much increased, as well as the powers of the plant.

REMARKABLE CASE OF BILIARY CALCULI.

THE following communication was addressed to Dr. Paul F. Eve by Dr. S. B. Cunningham, a highly distinguished physician of East Tennessee.

Dear Sir:—Accompanying this you will receive two hundred biliary calculi, being a part of the number obtained on a post-mortem inspection of an individual (namely, the late Judge E—), of this place. We have retained about fifty as specimens of illustration for the use of private students. I trust that what I send may be added to your collection of morbid specimens, and with your superior talents and opportunities, subserve in some degree the philanthropic intention expressed in the dying request of him who fell a victim under their influence.

I am able to glean but a few prominent facts from his previous history which bear relation to the disease, so as to aid in illustrating its pathology.

First, then, I remark, he was by birth a Virginian, descended from a family of rank and influence, of but ordinary strength of physical constitution naturally, but endowed with uncommon strength and vivacity of intellectual powers, with devoted and untiring perseverance in literary pursuits. As a matter of course his habits were sedentary. Of a sanguine bilious temperament, and from his associations in life, he was tempted to partake liberally of the indulgence and luxury of the table (a thing common in his day). The evils to be apprehended to such an one, under such circumstances, have been too often experienced and explained to need comment. He had suffered several attacks of intermittent fever whilst a resident of Norfolk, which left him with disease (probably enlarged or indurated spleen), from which, I am led to suppose, he never entirely recovered. Somewhere between the years 1815 and '20, he removed to Tennessee. He was at that time from 45 to 50 years of age, and had become quite corpulent—rather oppressed with obesity, which rendered him the more sluggish and inert. His superior talents soon designated him as a fit character for the bench of the Supreme Court. Looking over the geographical boundaries of the State, and considering the arduous duties of the office, we can perceive at once that it must have been oppressive. Having to travel over a boundary of several hundred miles of mountainous country, alternating with the confinement of official duties, it must have broken down his already weakened powers. It was in one of these travels that he was seized with the first of a series of spasms of the stomach, as was then thought, which visited him at irregular intervals until the close of life. These attacks were supposed, by his medical attendants, to be gout in the stomach, and the treatment corresponded with this pathological view.

The means employed were venesection, blisters, with a profusion of revulsives, anodynes, &c. &c., but all to little or no purpose—the pains and spasm still continued. The warm bath was the first application to afford relief, and this was his chief means of reliance for many years when the pains returned. The writer was first called to administer to his relief in 1830, some years after he had retired from office in hopes of regaining his health on his farm. On this occasion he was seized with pains in the right hypochondrium and with general abdominal tension, at first supposed to be colic—further characterized by costiveness, full tense pulse, furred tongue, and some thirst. To subdue these, I find, by reference to my book, I had recourse to repeated and copious bleeding, warm bath and purgatives. The last of these measures had to be administered in unusually large doses; about 30 to 40 grains of calomel, with a large pill of opium, followed by repeated and full doses of jalap and oil, before they produced anything like full action of the bowels. This was usually the case when he had occasion to take medicine at all; but his dejections, when procured, were of a healthy aspect, presenting the appearance of a due admixture of bile, and of healthy consistence. This was their quality, too, when not taking medicine, which he rarely needed. But little gastric disturbance was ever manifest; he could retain the most nauseous medicine without vomiting, and eat heartily (if allowed), when relieved of the severity of the pain, at any time during his illness. In these first attacks, he complained much of debilitating sweats, for which he took freely of vegetable and mineral acids, quinine, acet. plumbi, &c., without any advantage. About the first of November, 1836, he complained of dull and obtuse pain in the region of the liver, with no other uncommon symptom, which was attributed to hepatic derangement, superinduced by close confinement to writing, &c. When describing it, he thought the sensation referred more to the muscles of the abdomen, or side, as the seat, than to deep parts. Pressure produced little or no increase of the pain; a portion of equal parts of cal. rhei and aloes was administered, followed by oil, which brought away copious feculent stools, but afforded no relief. At this time, and for some time after, except when under the action of medicine or remedial agents, he was able to attend to the editorial duties of the paper which he was then conducting. November 4th or 5th, he was bled and blistered. 5th, 6th, 7th—no better. Ordered to dress with tart. emet. oint.; but it became so painful as to occasion its abandonment after a few hours. A poultice was now applied, and pills of cal. and rhei, and oil ordered every second day: diet light, bread and tea, gruel and roasted apples. 8th, 9th, 10th—the ointment has produced extensive cuticular inflammation, and extended like erysipelas over twice the original surface. The pain and irritation is almost insupportable. He cannot be persuaded that anything else now is the matter, as he can feel no deep-seated pain in his side. 13th, 14th, 15th—the inflammation still extends, some pustules, but no mitigation of pain. Ordered to bathe with decoct. tan bark, and acet. plumb. two, three or four times a day, and take a pill of ext. cicuta, and repeat, if necessary, in three hours. Next day no better, had no rest through the night.

Thus it advanced for two or three weeks; presenting a most perplexing erysipelas, until in the remedial search, a solution of lunar caustic in the proportion of two or three grains to the ounce, suddenly healed it, to the great comfort of both physician and patient (for he verily thought this alone was killing him). But by and by, after it had gotten well, the old pain returned with increased action; he found out his mistake. We now had recourse to mercurials, in order to their full alterative effects on the system, stramonium, belladonna, &c. &c. The only relief he now obtained, was from morphine. This article could not be substituted by opium, laudanum, or black drop. So sensible of its superiority did the patient become, that he scarcely could be prevailed on at length to make trial of other substitutes. December. He now underwent a variety of treatment suggested by different medical gentlemen. But as no regular journal was kept, and it was of the miscellaneous order of treatment, I think it unnecessary to detain you. Other organs within the circle of sympathy of the disease became involved. The tongue lost, in part, the thick mucous coat, and became tipped with red. The whole epigastric region was painful at times; but a prominent symptom was acute pain extending to the back—in describing which, he said he could cover it with his thumb or finger if he could reach it; so much was this the case, that we were led to attribute all the symptoms to neuralgia of the spinal nerves. He could only lie on the back or inclining to the right side. About the last of December, there occurred acute pain in the region of the kidney, attended by strangury and micturition, for which camphor, mucilages, buchu tea, muriated tinct. iron, &c., were used, and measurably relieved him of those symptoms. Dropsical swellings in the limbs next followed, for which the bandages were applied, which held that symptom at bayance. But it now became evident, that nothing but a palliative treatment could avail anything, and from henceforth it was nearly all that was attempted. He lingered on, greatly emaciated, until some time in July following, when death came, a much desired messenger, to relieve his agony.

And now as to the post-mortem appearances.

On opening the abdomen, the first thing that occurred to us worthy of remark, was the omentum highly injected with blood, a part of which was thickened and of a dusky-red color, showing established inflammation; the mesentery about the duodenum, and the bowel itself, was much inflamed externally; the stomach and upper bowels were much distended with flatus. But on opening the stomach or inspecting its outward coats, there was but little perceptible derangement. Everything, almost, presented a healthful appearance, excepting at its contiguity with the liver, and as it approximated the duodenum. The peritoneal coat of the smaller bowels was filled with small vessels, but may this not have been the remora of the blood from the atony of dissolution, their vascular capacity having been increased by previous excitement? The colon and rectum presented less ambiguous marks of positive inflammation, but was accounted for, from the circumstance of his having used, to a great extent, stimulating enemata, such as spirits of turpentine, solution of salts and soap, and even tobacco. This was expected to

be the case, as evidenced by slimy or mucous stools, tenesmus, &c. The left kidney was enlarged, and its capsule contained several ounces of whey-colored lymph. The internal kidney was not further examined, as our time was limited. The spleen was uneven, hard, and tuberculous; but in it not fair to conclude that this was only the legitimate offspring of his former intermittents. There was situated on the left crura of the diaphragm or abdominal surface, an abscess or collection of sero-purulent matter, containing about an ounce, but could not be traced by any morbid connection to the original disease of the gall bladder. The gall bladder was completely impacted with the calculi, even to the ductus communis choledochus; several of the smaller size had made good their way near the opening into the bowel, and others were lodged part of the way; but the coats were so thickened, that the passage seemed almost totally obliterated. The coats of the bladder itself were about the thickness and density of the cutis vera of the hand, having rather a callous than vascular appearance. Adhesion had formed pretty extensively around the neck and bowel, with thickening and increase of substance. The bowel was still more extensively inflamed, involving most of its mucous surface; part of which exhibited patches of ulceration. There may have been about a teaspoonful of dark viscid bile, as it were, percolating the stones, which presented surfaces of such perfect coaptation as to afford but very small interstices between them. The volume of the liver was enlarged and filled with grumous blood, and on the under surface considerably indurated. The lungs and chest were normal, so far as examined.

I have thus presented some of the prominent symptoms of this interesting case, and will now conclude with the following interrogations:

1st. Is it possible that the first attack was produced by calculi, which have remained there ever since, harmless for the most part, except on extraordinary causes co-operating and arousing temporary inflammation? Or did the first formation pass off, and a succession of them produce the different paroxysms under which he labored?

2d. Is it fair to presume that, originally, there was but one large one; and that it became broken and comminuted, and smoothed by attrition as we see them; or were they so many separate formations?

3d. Could surgery afford any possible prospect of remedy in such cases, provided our diagnosis of them were perfect?

Jonesboro', Tenn., Oct. 18th, 1837.

Remarks on the foregoing Case, by P. F. E.

1st Remark. Assuredly the calculi were formed separately; each one, in all probability, having its own nucleus.

2d. No surgeon would be justified in operating in such a case, though the diagnosis were clear. The gall bladder has truly been punctured, and hepatic abscesses are opened, without the loss of life; but to cut for stones in the gall bladder, is an operation certainly not recommended in the present state of medical science.—*Southern Med. Jour.*

BELL'S ECLECTIC JOURNAL.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

IN the last number of Dr. Bell's Eclectic Journal, is a notice of an article communicated by me to this Journal of the 20th of September, on the subject of Animal Magnetism. It commences as follows :

"The purport of this essay may be known by the two opening sentences. 'The evidence in favor of Animal Magnetism accumulates on all hands. Events which have lately transpired in a neighboring city leave to ridicule no excuse to amuse herself with facts which reason cannot comprehend.' If reference to the neighboring city means Providence, we will just content ourselves with remarking that the somnambulistic lady there has not been able, or has not chosen, to read certain passages, words, or lines, neatly folded several times in paper, and hermetically sealed, which were sent to her from Philadelphia. This were a small matter for so accomplished a personage,' &c.

It then proceeds to comment on the proceedings at Providence as a tissue of base impositions practised on a gullible and gulling public, and ends with promising information which, while it reveals absurdities and imposture, will add to what is really demonstrable in animal magnetism.

If Dr. Bell expects to throw light on the question of animal magnetism by communicating information to the public of such a character as he seems to contemplate, or by following out the course of argument adopted in the last number of his Journal, in an essay on the subject, I shall take the liberty to remark, that he has wholly mistaken the nature and scope of the magnetic phenomena. It is neither by such reasoning, nor by such information, that absurdity is distinguished from imposture, nor additions made to the "demonstrable" knowledge of anything.

Conclusions respecting animal magnetism, to be valid, must be drawn, not from events that do *not* take place, but from events that *do* take place. We need inquire, not what may, or may not, occur again, but what *has* occurred. One positive fact is of more consequence, in connection with those phenomena, than a thousand negative ones. Consequently all the letters that were sent from Philadelphia to Providence, and returned unread, or misconstrued, are little more in point, with reference to this subject, than though they had been unread by the clerks in the post office through which they passed. And all the information of this kind that may be in the possession of Dr. Bell or his friends, is about of the value of ignorance; for evidence of a more substantial character, founded on authority equally good, is already in the possession of the public.

The question of animal magnetism stands thus. A series of facts are asserted by one party; another series of facts are asserted by the other party. Both series are explicable on the supposition that animal magnetism is true. The latter only are explicable on the supposition that it is false. Those who do not believe in it, because they do not understand it, to cut the matter short, deny the first series in toto, and in so doing do not hesitate to stigmatize a large and respectable portion of their fellow citizens, in plain English, as fools or impostors. The

question, then, is reduced to this. Is this denial true, and are those charges just? To this it may be replied that the facts are abundant, tangible, complete, consistent with themselves, and authenticated as far as it is possible for human testimony to confirm anything; that they want nothing short of the capability of being reproduced at will, and that in regard to many of them even this has been done. But animal magnetism has to make its way against the preconceived opinions of mankind. Its professors mingle their theories with the facts they attempt to illustrate, and occasionally, nay frequently, fail in their experiments, and disappoint the inordinate expectations which they have excited in the minds of spectators. These failures, which at least are an argument in favor of their sincerity, for jugglery is uniformly successful, are laid hold of by opposers, made a theme of ridicule, and trumpeted through the public press, to the effect of fortifying old prejudices and withdrawing the attention from the real and intrinsic evidence on which the subject rests. Hence the unfavorable impressions that exist in relation to this matter, at the present time. They do not spring from any defect in the nature and amount of evidence accumulated, but because this evidence is not examined with candor and impartiality, and its weight duly estimated.

Such, in brief, is the true state of the case. The friends of animal magnetism are sanguine and expect it to accomplish great things. Imagination heightens the effect in reality produced, and perhaps the vanity of being thought supernaturally gifted, on the part of the magnetized, leads him to attempt what he cannot accomplish. Their opponents take them at their word, without calling to mind that they know as little as themselves of the subject, and argue most *hypothetically* about the impiety of clothing man with the attributes of omniscience and omnipresence, and the separation of the soul from the body, topics which are as foreign from these phenomena as they are from a fit of convulsions or tetanus. And when they find that constancy wanting in the facts, the unauthorized presumption of which gave a coloring of reason to their absurdities, they discover in it a new reason to consider the whole as a humbug, notwithstanding all analogy teaches that it is just what might be expected, if they belong to a disordered action of the nervous system. The variety and complexity of function the nervous structure is instrumental in performing in its distribution throughout the bodily organs, and the delicacy of experimenting in the almost total absence of principles to guide the experimenter, are lost sight of. A failure is balanced with a successful operation, a wrong guess with a right one, without estimating the difference of probabilities in favor of each; and of course what is proof in everything else, is here nothing but evidence of fraud and wilful deception.

While such is the light in which these facts are contemplated, he cannot expect to be regarded with much favor in the public estimation, who ventures to advocate their authenticity and agreement with the laws of nature. Yet if Dr. Bell, or any other physician, is disposed to think that argument is as well calculated to elucidate the subject as wit, either

original, or borrowed from Rabelais and others, I should have no objection to discuss with him the two following questions.

1st. Whether the leading phenomena of the magnetic sleep do not harmonize with what is known, or regarded as most probable, of the functions of the nervous system.

2d. Whether analogy does not confirm the supposition that this state may be induced by the agency of one individual upon another.

The affirmation of these questions I am prepared to maintain; and I maintain, also, that ridicule and affected contempt are out of place, and out of time, where and when the negative of them is not established anteriorly. Should Dr. Bell, or any other physician, accept the invitation to discuss these questions, I would have him understand beforehand that I am not responsible for the speculations of the magnetizers. I shall deal with the facts alone—such facts as are admissible on the common principles of evidence—and reserve the right to put my own construction upon them. He will find me no supporter of the transmigration or peregrination of souls from body to body, or from city to city. The explanation I shall give of the facts will be physical purely. Avoiding metaphysics altogether, it will consider these remarkable phenomena as the result of a disturbance in the condition of the nervous expansions and nervous centre, on which external sensation and thought depend.

Boston, Jan. 1, 1838.

BENJAMIN HASKELL, M.D.

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL

BOSTON, JANUARY 10, 1838.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

THIS is by no means the first time we have urged upon the medical men of this country, the necessity of forming a great national medical society, for the advancement of science and good fellowship. Again we call upon our professional brethren to devise some plan for congregating the scientific the ensuing summer, either at Washington or Philadelphia, and if a prospectus were devised and freely circulated, under the sanction of one or two names of gentlemen of Boston, Providence, New Haven, New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Richmond, Charleston, Cincinnati, Louisville, &c., there might be convened in the month of August next, an illustrious body of learned men, who would give an impulse to the study of medicine in the United States, of incalculable benefit to the national weal, and certainly to the nation's honor and glory. We contemplate forwarding, ere long, to all our exchange Journals, a scheme for organizing a national association, about which we ask advice and counsel, and if acceptable, also their joint co-operation in the accomplishment of this desirable convocation.

Laryngeal Phthisis.—Those who would make themselves thoroughly conversant with a disease which is beginning to attract considerable at-

tention, in New England—familiarly called the *clergyman's sore throat*—should consult an admirable paper in No. 2, Vol. 2d, of the *Eclectic Journal of Medicine*. The whole subject is there clearly investigated, and, with a few exceptions, it appears to embrace all that physicians have collected in the ordinary routine of practice. Clergymen of the present day do not perform as much speaking labor as those who have preceded them, and yet we are continually hearing of individuals who are compelled to break up their connection with parishes on account of an inability to speak in public.

Trousseau and Belloc are not correct, it is believed, in determining all the causes which may produce laryngeal phthisis. The field, therefore, should be more carefully surveyed with reference to ascertaining the causes producing the disease in the United States particularly. Certainly all the clergy laboring under it have not tubercular pulmonary phthisis. Were this paper republished in the principal religious periodicals, the clergy would be put in possession of a manual of much importance, because they would understand, by the character of their own symptoms, when the vocal apparatus became disordered, and its true condition appreciated.

Dr. Mott, of New York.—In a recent letter received from Dr. Mott, by one of his intimate friends, he makes use of the following language. "I am not idle, as you may believe, for that I truly abhor. My time, that is not devoted to other necessary things for my family, is given to my professional improvement. Part of it I devote to writing upon surgery. I have projected and commenced a great work, and if my life be spared, it is my intention to leave something for the benefit of those who come after me. I have said, perhaps presumptuously, a great work. I only mean by it, I have conceived the idea of a good work upon practical surgery. Whether it will ever be within my power to complete it, is another matter. It will be upon the basis of relative anatomy, as I have been in the habit of teaching for some years, and the immense value of which I am more and more convinced of the longer I live, and the more I see. Upon this I shall engraft my views of surgical pathology, and my experience. It will not be my object to load it with the opinions of others, by liberal quotations, by which I might display my reading and my surgical erudition, and make it a work of reference for other men's opinions. It shall contain my own opinions and a simple narration of my own experience."

It must gratify Dr. Mott's professional friends, and in fact every lover of science, to know, that with the improvement in his health, he is occupied on such a subject.

Samaritan Hospital.—Dr. Anderson's communication to the mayor of New York, upon the subject of a plan of a hospital to be attached to the Almshouse, together with memorials and remonstrances of sundry *interested* and *disinterested* physicians of that city, in relation to the same, have been received. In all these documents the cloven foot of a college clique is plainly discoverable. Nothing can be plainer than the waning influence of the medical school of New York. It appears to be a mere machine in the hands of a few of the University Regents, who neither

know how to designate genuine talents, nor would they appreciate such men, even were they inducted into the rickety chairs of the present incumbents. Why is it that New York, with all its uncommon advantages, has scarcely one hundred students of medicine, when Philadelphia numbers nearly nine hundred at this moment? In due time the problem will be solved.

Frost's Trial.—A full report of the trial of Richard K. Frost, for manslaughter, has been forwarded from New York, but it is too voluminous for republication in this place. Suffice it to say that he was tried for killing a man under the Thomsonian plan, and was convicted of manslaughter in the *fourth* degree—just no degree at all. It is equivalent to an acquittal, which will probably be the ultimate termination of that unhappy affair.

Deleuze.—Mr. Hartshorn's translation of the third and last Part of this manual of Animal Magnetism, elucidated and greatly improved by notes, is announced by the publishers. Although we have not yet received a copy, we know enough of that gentleman's qualifications for conducting the translation to its completion, to recommend the whole work to those who feel any interest in making themselves thoroughly conversant with all that is known in that broad but partially surveyed field of philosophy.

[Since the above remarks were written, Part 3d has been sent in. A very slight examination of its contents fully warrants us in assuring the reader that Mr. Hartshorn exhibits more research and industry, if possible, in this, than in the preceding divisions of the volume.]

Triumphs of Science.—A correspondent writes to us from New York, thus: "I presume you have seen an account of Frost's trial for manslaughter. It has caused much excitement here among the profession. Many of them feel sore that members of our brotherhood, when placed on the stand for the purpose of eliciting a scientific opinion, should have declared on oath, 'that the patient's pulse was 160!! that his *nerves were in a state of excitement*,' 'that it is possible to distinguish typhus fever, smallpox, and scarlet fever, at the *inception* of the disease!!' 'that oxalic acid was a *mineral* poison;' 'that if lobelia passed into the bowels it might purge,' as if no medicine could operate on the alimentary canal, without coming in contact with the surface, &c."

Bangor Medical Association.—An admirable plan has been devised by the practitioners of the enterprising city of Bangor, in the State of Maine, for maintaining peace and harmony amongst themselves, and at the same time elevating the professional character. The constitution is quite faultless, and might be copied by other similar associations to good advantage. Consultations, references, differences of physicians, discouragement of quackery, conduct for the support of the medical character, fees, exemption from charges, and, lastly, a fee table, are separately considered, and apparently every necessary provision made for contingencies. We have no fault to find with any part, with the single exception of the 12th article, under the general caption of Rules, Prac-

tice, &c., page 9th, embracing the tariff of charges. The members rate their services much too low, and we predict a remodeling of this starving system of practice. Why, it is morally impossible, with a moderate business, at the present cost of the necessities of life in a city, to keep a family as comfortably provided for as a physician's household should be, inasmuch as appearances in this age are indicative of the man, without asking, in many cases, just double the sum agreed upon. For example: "for a visit and passing catheter, \$2.00," which should be \$5.00 anywhere. "For a visit on board a vessel, \$1.50 ;" which, also, is not half enough. Again, "for surgical advice in the night, \$1.25." Surely it is worth more to draw out a sliver in broad daylight. No man, educated properly, can afford to provide himself with appropriate instruments, and live like a minute man in a city, without rating his services much higher. Medical prescriptions are worth as much in Bangor as at Boston, because the expenses of living in both places are nearly alike.

Gonorrhœal Ophthalmia.—The following extract from the *Lancet* may serve to show what incorrigible fools are sometimes to be met with in the world: "A young man, with natural weakness of sight, was recommended to bathe his eyes with urine. Although suffering under an attack of gonorrhœa at the time, this did not deter him from adopting the prescribed remedy. He bathed his eyes with his own urine. A violent attack of gonorrhœal or purulent ophthalmia followed the application, which, notwithstanding the most active treatment, rapidly produced disorganization of the eyes, with loss of vision. The symptoms commenced immediately after the application."

Medical Miscellany.—Dr. Peirson, of Salem, lately delivered an able lecture before the Physiological Society in this city, upon popular errors arising from ignorance of the laws of physiology. This subject led to some remarks upon the prevalence of quackery. The utter worthlessness of the certificates which generally fill the public prints, may be inferred from a fact related of an ex-professor of a certain university, who delivered a flaming lecture against the use of tobacco, and not a very long period afterwards gave a certificate in favor of a nostrum sold under the name of aromatic *snuff*.—The course of lectures on Anatomy at the Mason street School, is rendered more palatable to those entering on the rugged paths of science, by the *amusing* sallies of the gentleman who fills the chair.—A German author has said, "To keep the mind and body in perfect health, it is necessary to mix habitually and betimes in the common affairs of men."—"Copious bloodletting" is insisted on by some practitioners as a cure for hydrophobia. This is a touch of Dr. Sangrado's system of practice, and will no doubt be equally successful.—The French papers give a rather apocryphal account of an inhabitant of Lyons, who being attacked with a lethargy, during which he heard all that was said and everything that was done around him, without the power of making a motion or uttering a word, was pronounced to be dead and was placed in the coffin for burial. As the coffin was about to be nailed up, the supposed corpse, to the horror of all present, suddenly rose up and asked for *something to eat*.—The profession will be gratified, in a short time, by the publication, in one volume, of the prize dissertation by Dr. Holmes.

Hydrocyanic Acid, as a Topical Remedy in Cutaneous Diseases.—In some of those distressing states of the skin, where disordered sensation is almost intolerable, and where itching occurs, it may be employed externally with very considerable utility. A lotion containing two drachms of the acid to eight ounces of water, with a small proportion of acetate of lead and alcohol, is most useful. In prurigo, in inveterate psoriasis, and in different cutaneous affections marked by heat, by tingling, and by itching, it affords great comfort to the patient.—*Lancet*.

Whole number of deaths in Boston, for the week ending Jan. 6, 33. Males, 17—Females, 16.

Consumption, 9—Inflammation of the bowels, 1—droopy, 1—child-bed, 1—carditis, 1—wound, 1—Inflammation of the lungs, 3—Inflammation of the lungs and pleura, 1—suicide, 1—old age, 3—burn, 1—scrofula, 1—pleurisy, 1—disease of the heart, 1—disease of the brain, 1—scarlet fever, 3—typhus fever, 1—diphtheria tremens, 1—stillborn, 1.

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THE subscribers are associated for the purpose of giving a complete course of medical instruction, and will receive pupils on the following terms:

The pupils will be admitted to the practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and will receive clinical lectures on the cases they witness there. Instruction, by lectures or examinations, will be given in the intervals of the public lectures, every week day.

On Midwifery, and the Diseases of Women and Children, and on Chemistry, by DR. CHANNING.
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On the Principles and Practice of Surgery, " DR. OTIS.
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Oct. 18—17

WALTER CHANNING,
JOHN WARE,
GEORGE W. OTIS, JR.,
WINSLOW LEWIS, JR.

VACCINE VIRUS.

PHYSICIANS in any section of the United States can procure ten quills charged with *Poxa Vaccinae* Virus by return mail, on addressing the editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, enclosing one dollar, *post paid*, without which, no letter will be taken from the post office. Oct. 25.

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THE undersigned are associated for the purpose of instructing in all the branches of Medicine and Surgery. A suitable room will be provided, and pupils will have the use of an extensive medical library, opportunities for seeing the practice of one of the districts of the Dispensary and of the Eye and Ear Infirmary, and of attending a course of lectures on the diseases of the eye.

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JOHN JEFFRIES, M.D.
R. W. HOOPER, M.D.
JOHN H. DIX, M.D.

Franklin Street, Nov. 9, 1836.

July 19—6m

MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

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Sufficient attention will be paid to Practical Anatomy.

For further information, application may be made at the room, over 103 Hanover street, or to the subscribers.

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HENRY G. CLARK, M.D.
JOSEPH MORIARTY, M.D.

Boston, August 9, 1837.

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